

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 20, 22-24 and 26 are pending in the present application. Claims 9, 10 and 14 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 9, 10 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hsu (U.S. Patent No. 5,584,023) in view of Bouis (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,608); and Claims 1-4, 20, 26 and 27 stand allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the identification of allowable subject matter.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Official Action has rejected Claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants amended Claims 22-24 to recite that content data is stored in association with a communication key. Thus, content data associated with a communication key, which is encrypted content, is stored in such a manner to designate this relationship. Applicants respectfully submit that the change to the claim clarifies the previous terminology “correspondingly”.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 22-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

As the outstanding rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 pertains to the cancelled claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been rendered moot.

CONCLUSION

Should the Examiner believes any additional formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, at the Examiner's convenience.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including Claims 1-4, 20, 22-24 and 26, are patentably distinguishing over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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